Sympathy as a cause of Disease.

Isaac Hays

admitted March 14th 1820

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There is an intimate connection existing between every part of our system, by which an action excited in one part, is communicated to another, and a perfect harmony thus established, among all the actions that take place in the animal oeconomy. This law, to which the terms association, sympathy, or consent of parts have been applied, early attracted the observation of Physicians. It was known even to Hypocrates, & Galen has treated particularly, of those diseases which arise from sympathy. In the writings of Van Helmont, Baglivi, Riga, Whytt, Hunter, Darwin, Barther, & Bichat, are to be found the most conclusive evidences of the existence of this law; indeed it appears at present, to be established beyond the reach of cavil or dispute. Hoffman has likewise considered this subject with much attention, he has traced the sympathies that obtain ~~between~~ ~~the~~ between the stomach and different parts of the body with great success, & has shown the accumulation of noxious

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matter in the alimentary canal, to be the source of many diseases. The labours of these writers, were however more particularly directed to the investigation of the more intimate sympathies existing between the several organs of the body, & to the vain attempt of accounting for their operation, whilst its effects in the production of disease, if not wholly overlooked, certainly does not seem to have obtained the attention it deserves.

An acquaintance with the influence of sympathy in the production of diseases, is of the utmost importance to the physician, as it affords him the only means of arriving at a correct pathology, & of pursuing a rational and successful plan of cure. It lays open to his view the whole progress of disease, & shows him how a mere local affection gradually extends itself, till finally it embraces every part of the system: and all diseases, no matter how extensive may be their influence, even if every part of the system be involved

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volved, proceed from a local impression, conveyed to other parts, by sympathetic affinity. It enables him to distinguish a symptomatic from an idiopathic affection, to trace disease to its first lodgment, & to pursue his measures for its removal unawed by those phantoms of repulsion, & translation, which have so often paralyzed the efforts of the medical practitioner.

It has already been said, that even the affections which appear to us most complex in the number, the variety, & the dissimilarity of their symptoms, all originate in a disease of a single organ, extended to others, by means of the numerous sympathies of the affected organ, with the other organs of the body. Of the manner however ~~by~~ in which this connection takes place, we are entirely ignorant. It has been satisfactorily shown by Whytt, that it cannot be through the medium of the nerves, since some parts which receive filaments from the same nerve do not sympathize,

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while there exists between others, the nerves of which have no connection, the most manifest sympathy. Nor is the explanation which he has offered, more satisfactory. Indeed like heat, electricity, galvanism, magnetism, & gravitation, it is known only by its effects, & like these its nature or essence, will perhaps forever elude our grasp. But although we are ignorant of the nature, & mode of action of its causes, we must not cease to investigate its effects, for by carefully observing its operations which are every day presented to us in the phenomena of health and disease, we shall be able very accurately to ascertain the extent of its ~~operation~~ influence, as well as the laws by which it is governed, & thus be enabled to correct the operation of these laws, when they are called into action, in a manner inconsistent with health.

With a view to investigate this subject more particularly, I shall endeavour to point out some of the morbid sympathies most frequently

called

+ Gregory.

|| Hunter.

J. Burns.

and the ~~[illegible]~~ action involving, calls not in, multiplied & dangerous disease with a rash, exaggerated feature, consider the functions.

Every part of the system is connected by sympathies & ties but there are certain parts as the Skin & the digestive organs upon which the causes of disease most frequently operate. Of these the digestive organs, being constantly subjected to the operation of such a variety of irritating matters composed of the various articles of food, & drink, & the occasional retention of their own natural secretions, are observed to be that part of the system, where we meet most frequently with those primary irritations, which are productive of diseased appearances & therefore deserves the most particular attention.

The Stomach is the most important organ in the animal oeconomy. The essential part of every animal, the existence & action of which is most independent of the concurrence of every other organ, & to which life seems to adhere with most

tenacity

fact, it is also the only one which can be said to exist
alone. Even the Rhizopod, which forms the first link
in the animal chain, whose structure appears to be
reduced to the utmost simplicity consistent with the ani-
mal existence, possesses a digestive apparatus. It
first consists only of a digestive tube, a mere ani-
mated bulb, shaped into an alimentary canal.
So simple indeed is its structure, so absolute the in-
dependence of the mutual relations of its parts,
that it may be turned inside out, even cut into
pieces, and yet the only function it is capable of
performing (digestion) goes on. Each piece becomes
the perfect individual organized thing like that to
which it originally belonged. In ascending the ani-
mal scale, we find the structure of this organ becoming
more complicated, till we arrive at the most perfect
animals, in whom it is exceedingly complex. But
as it does maintain its importance, for life has
been supported even in them, destitute of almost
every other organ. Some cold blooded animals

Effective
Inactive

Within Bounds

live & move for several hours without brain, heart, or lungs. Redi asserts that a turtle will live for months without its head, indeed it is said by naturalists that they have been known to survive the extraction of the brain for half a year. It is well known that a snake will move for a few minutes after its head is cut off; that in a few minutes about worms, some of a man except the Hole Sacramenti return to the existence of life & motion, if the mouth be laid close during the interment of his adversaries. In Phthisis Pulmonalis there is sometimes a cavity of lungs left, some persons have the power of suspending the action of the heart & it is sometimes suspended without the will. In dropsy of the heart nothing has been found but the membranes, some have lost a considerable part of the brain & recovered; some & others report instances of people walking about with part of the cerebrum gangrenous & this part of the brain has been entirely removed in birds & other animals without death being occasioned. As the

involuntary

+ L'Espault

+ Blanc.

involuntary motions, & even the use of the limbs, have continued a day or two after the spinal marrow has been divided; the involuntary ones continue when the nerves & brain are locked up in sleep, lethargy, & apoplexy & in the suspended action of the heart & lungs in syncope. Fatuses have been born alive, without brain spinal marrow, heart lungs, or uterus. Dr Paris relates the case of a fœtus in which there was not the smallest vestige of a cerebrum or cerebellum, but which even twenty hours after birth moved its limbs when the soles of its feet were tickled, sucked the fingers when introduced into its mouth & a few hours before had hasped mine & faces, & swallowed food, & the same motions are recorded as having occurred in another example in which the spinal marrow, & medulla oblongata as well as the brain, were total wanting. On the contrary a blow or the wind of a cannon ball over the stomach kills without leaving a mark. Unwholesome food, strong wine or other intoxicating liquors, no sooner touch the stomach of one under disgust from excess, than the

communicate new life & strength to the whole body.

The stomach also appears to be the centre of sympathies exercising the most extensive influence over the whole human frame both of body & mind. And when we consider that a due action in this important organ, is essentially necessary to the welfare of the human frame, that its derangements must of course affect the whole system, which depends upon it for immediate support, it is not at all surprising that it should be the first link in the chain of most diseases. The disorder of the alimentary canal should produce such a variety of diseases causing chorea in one person, vertigo in a second, convulsions in a third, and in a fourth &c. it is not visible to me. These diseases, seems to exist in the animal economy, a peculiar hereditary position, or idiosyncrasy, whereby a susceptibility is given to individuals of being subject to certain modes of disease, arising from the application of occasional causes by which another person, not possessed of that peculiarity would either be not

affected at all, or else affected in a different manner.
In what this peculiarity consists, we are unable to discover.
But in even but even of the inanimate world, we find
inexplicable difficulties. What wonder then if in the
human body, a system so curious, so subtle & complicated
as we should meet with many appearances which
we cannot at all account for. The further we insti-
tute enquiries into nature, the more shall we be con-
vinced of our ignorance, & how small a portion is
known ~~[illegible]~~ of the works of the great creator."

In pursuing the following investigations I will
avoid the consideration of diseases produced by Spontaneous
in the one instance to my brother, & is to the nature
of that system was then & another reason, that we
are indebted for the elucidation, promulgation, of the pa-
thologic view of disease under consideration. I
in unison with diseases of the nervous system

To point in a strange & more public & practical
manner that disorders of the brain or nervous system will affect
the whole nervous system in nervous & convulsive

these affections which have been denominated nervous, I do not believe there is one that disorder of these organs will not occasionally simulate. An abolition of the functions of the brain or a state of excitation causing delirium, partial nervous inactivity, insensibility, or the opposite state of irritation & pain, may all be induced by the mind. It has been proved by numerous depositions, that a general derangement of the nervous system producing abstinence, & these baleful effects of a similar nature causing hemiplegia & paralysis may take place without any visible change of structure in the brain, & Dr Gerson has most satisfactorily shown that disease of the epitheloid viscera always precedes & accompanies these cases, & that the nervous symptoms are with the utmost plausibility, be referred to this disorder. Mr Abernethy has examined the bodies of patients in whom disease most evidently began in the abdominal viscera, & were continued in them to the conclusion of their lives, nevertheless seemed to die rather of nervous disorder than of disease

of

the parts first affected. One of the patients, died after with obstructed symptoms, & one with hemiplegia. In all these cases the digestive organs exhibited morbid appearances & in two of them no morbid appearance was observable in the brain. Dr Cheyne also dissected the brain of a woman who died of apoplexy, in which there was not the slightest mark of disease, & numerous references to similar dissections are to be met with in the writings of Morgagni, Bonetus & others.

A train of symptoms similar to those of Hydrocephalus also frequently arises from the brain morbidly sympathizing with the digestive organs, & indeed the vascularity itself is often fairly & incurably established, by the sympathy which the brain has with these organs. This opinion is supported by the authority of Dr Thomson, Dr James Cunn, Dr Willan, & Dr Hamilton. The last writer observes, that Hydrocephalus often comes slowly on the devoted victim with symptoms resembling those of incipient mania, which is

often

As it is not unreasonable to suppose, that marasmus which is clearly the result of a morbid state of digestive organs may occasionally give rise to the cerebralis. Dr Chapman has been led to entertain the same view of the pathology of the case, from the well known association which he observes exists between these parts, & the various considerations which may be deduced from the history of the disease, such as the cerebral symptoms observed in the emphoretic cholera sometimes for weeks before the appearance of the cerebral symptoms, the removal of these symptoms by purgatives & other remedies directed to the alimentary canal, the extreme tenderness felt in the regions of the stomach & liver, the obstinate constipation attending at the decline, in the peculiarity of the stools indicating extreme retention of the biliary secretion, & the phenomena exhibited on dissection, among the various examines of nervous disease most of the abdominal contents & especially in the stomach & liver, & sometimes none at all in the brain

Mr

Mr Abernethy examined a child who was
supposed to have died of Hydrocephalus, accompa-
nied by great disorder of the stomach, & bowels. In this
case the bowels were inflamed, the liver sound, & the brain
specifically healthy in appearance, yet there had been
so great a diminution of sensation & motion, as to leave
no doubt of the existence of hydrocephalus. Dr Heyne
in his dissections has found the intestines inflamed,
constricted from shade & the surface of them set a
spot ex colore, wounded in minute vessels, &
sometimes, adhering to the peritoneum. & in several
cases the surface of the liver studded with, nave
like tubercles, not larger than a grain of mustard,
the glands of the mesentery diseased, owing to their
enlargement, & the excess of secretions which we find
in the substance of the glands & in mother blue veins
have found in the liver the veins of great in flam-
matory action & also proofs that undue irritation
has existed in the alimentary canal.
It is not easy to decide when the symptoms arise

some sympathy between the brain & digestive organs, & when
from a primary affection of the brain. Perhaps fu-
ture observation may prove, says Dr. Lynn, that we
shall not be wrong to trace the disease to that organ
which first has its functions sensibly impaired; in a
great many cases it has happened to me, that a
series of unusual actions has commenced with the
morbid state of the abdominal viscera.

The pathology of insanity does not appear
to have been investigated, with sufficient attention.
The ancients considered a redundancy of vitiated bile,
as the cause of this disease, & their plan of cure, con-
sisted in the administration of the drastic purgatives.
So many centuries this theory of the disease, & the
practice in treating it, remained nearly stationary,
when the disease came to be considered as an
idiopathic affection of the brain, & remedies calcula-
ted to act more immediately upon that organ,
were adopted. This practice however proved
exceedingly unsuccessful indeed it has been observed.

that the further we have departed from the rules laid down by the ancients for the treatment of insanity, the more unsuccessful has been the practice. Led to this fact as well as by the observation that the morbid appearances of the brain in persons who have died of insanity, were by no means commensurate with the violence of the disease, & that sometimes none of them existed, & that great lesions & derangements have been discovered in the brains of persons at their death, in whom nothing to excite a suspicion of organic disease had been detected while living, & also that similar appearances have been remarked in the crania of persons who have died of other, & obstinate diseases, pathologists have been induced to seek in the chylopoietic viscera for the cause of the disease. The result of this investigation seems most incontestably to prove that frequently in mania & almost always in Melancholia & the cognate diseases the brain is only sympathetically affected from disorder of the digestive organs

gans.

Ferlu allied to Hypochondriasis, & by many consid-
e the same disease is Hysteria. Like most of the
nervous maladies, various opinions have been entertained, res-
pecting its pathology. To me however it appears evi-
dent, from its history, symptoms, & method of cure,
that it is a disease originating in disorder of the ab-
dominal viscera, & in this opinion, I am supported
by some of the most respectable authorities. Dr. Hum
phrey after detailing the history of the disease, remarks,
these symptoms undoubtedly must denote a me-
chanical affection of the stomach, & alimentary canal.
From this opinion, then, arose conclusive evidence, that
the affection is hereditary, & that the other multifarious
symptoms of Hysteria depend upon it. Since then
fore, he adds thought is reasonable to attend particu-
larly to the state of the stomach, & intestines, & to employ
in the first instance purgative medicines, to remove the
constipation of the body which most commonly pre
vails in hysteria. The treatment of hysteria was no

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~~This does not appear to me to be a~~

* Aretaeus appears to have entertained a somewhat similar view of the pathology of the case. Venum hracipne furore et melancholiae sedes viscera sunt. Aretai de causis et signis lib. 1 cap. vi.

Dr. Why, remarks that a disordered state of the stomach & intestines with wind or noxious humours lodged in them, will sometimes so affect the brain as to delude people of their senses.

Highmore ascribes hypochondriasis to a relaxed constitution of the nervous, & Smellie has written a dissertation to prove that its seat is in the intestines especially that part of the colon which lies in the left hypochondriac region. Mandeville ascribes it to a disordered chylification. Junkerius makes its immediate cause consist in an obstruction of the blood of the vena portarum & vasa connected with it. Boerhaave derives it from an atrabiliary humour lodging in the pancreas, spleen & neighbouring organs: Hoffman from a retarded peristaltic action of the stomach & intestines.

ed very unequivocal. In this point we have also the testimony of Cambrey who says that the dreadful hysterical symptoms, which we daily see either in moderate fits or the whole body are altogether dependent upon the accumulation of acrid matter in the intestines; for the intolerable pain, the coldness, unnatural appearance of the face always warn of an approaching paroxysm of hysterical convulsions.

Cholera also, is sometimes produced from the same sympathising in the intestine organs. That this is the case is known by many circumstances in the history of the disease. In the first place it is been proved that cholera may take place however female, fatally, without any morbid alteration of structure of the brain or its membranes. Dr Cooper examined the brain of a person who died of the disease with particular attention, but could not discover any morbid alteration of structure. Because it cannot always arise from a derangement in the structure of the brain. It was

~~author~~, moreover been observed by Dr Fothergill that
children were most liable to relapse in the climacteric, that
the children were often extremely mentioned with res-
pect to diet, that children highly indulged were la-
ble to the disease; that in every other respect of pure-
ness, & in middle aged men, if they were at
all subject to the disease it was when they had either
or neither some excess, or some mean or other,
were sickness. & that in adults subject to children,
the disease seldom occurred without an habitual
indulgence in eating, or a neglect of necessary exer-
cise. In young boys, he adds I apprehend, the chil-
dhood, most generally proceeds from their own eating
habits & the neglect of those who are about them.

There is also another variety of Epilepsy,
which comes on with symptoms similar to those of
Lunacy, & tho it ~~are~~ is connected in a disorder
of the abdominal viscera, & to these have the autho-
rities of Dr Hamilton been extensive & ex-
ce, & correct observers, entitle in opinion to
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the utmost respect.

Mr. Fenwick had a patient who at the first attack of a remittent fever was affected with epileptic fits to which he had never been previously subject. He relates that they were occasioned by the stomachs of accumulated bile. He ordered a vomit which brought off a large quantity of green bile, & relieved him entirely from the convulsions.

These facts to which many more might be added appear sufficient to prove, that epileptic frequently arises from, or rather with disorder of the digestive organs: and these, I conceive, constitute the main exciting causes of the disease.

The dominant is produced by the same causes and [illegible] by a partial [illegible] in the [illegible].

He remarks that the cases of this disease which have come under his observation, have no great disorder of the digestive organs. That he has known cases commence the dominant owing to correcting the unhealthy state of these organs.

Without entering into further particulars enough has

+ This method of curing the disease was first proposed by Dr. Physic. It is one of the many improvements in the cure of disease for which mankind are indebted to the active resources of his peculiar and great mind.

and been cited to prove the intimate sympathy between the digestive organs & nervous system & its influence in the production of disease. It also shows how important it is in all diseases of the nervous system to attend to the direction of the disorder of these organs. It may be further further to remark, that in all these cases no real disease seems at first to exist in the brain, either from affected; it seems a disease of function in the first of consciousness, but that after the disease has continued for some time an actual derangement of structure is sometimes produced.

There is a remarkable sympathy between the stomach & organs of sight. Cominius mentions in his observations medicinales, that disorder of the stomach also sometimes occasion dimness of sight. Whytt says he knew one lady to whom every object appeared as covered with a thick smoke, as often as her stomach was loaded with an acid, & another who seldom had any disorder of the stomach, without the eyelids or eyes becoming in some measure inflamed. Dr. Fahnan

in

met with a case of total blindness from disorder of the bow-
-els, & I have myself been suffered a partial loss of vision
from the same cause. That Ophthalmia may be produ-
-ced by disorder of the digestive organs, we have the auto-
-rity of Richter & Mr Dewar says that Gout, Ophthalmia
& Coelic complaints alternate frequently with each other.
Scarlatan has met with several cases of very violent
Ophthalmia that he could trace directly to a vitiated
state of the stomach, & the success of the practice deduced
from this theory of the disease confirms its correctness.

Disorders of the digestive organs by
sympathy affect the Muscular System producing a
variety of diseases the first of which I shall notice, is
gout. There is no disease concerning the nature of
which more difference of opinion has existed or to ex-
plain the phenomena of which more ingenious theo-
-ries have been framed. But all enquiries respecting
the nature of disease are idle, & those who have in-
-dulged in them, have greatly mistaken the extent
of the insight that we are capable of obtaining into

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Mr Desgenettes in histoire medicinale de l'armée d'orient mentions this same circumstance.

operations of the animal economy. They are as
tle as the speculations of the Cartesians respecting the
sence of gravitation, & have as little to do with the
vancement of true medical knowledge. Aretaeus one
the most sensible of the Greek writers is the only
believe to have ever [illegible] of gout, a knowl-
ge which he assigns to the Gods alone, the evident causes
disease apparent in man. I will not therefore attempt
investigate the nature & cause of ~~from~~ the phenomena,
out, but will only remark, that after careful & attention
one of its history, I feel convinced that it is a disease
inating in disorder of the digestive organs, & affecting
the parts by the sympathy which these parts have with the
digestive organs*. Every part of its history appears
to confirm this view of the pathology of the disease.
was little known among the ancients in the time of
ir primitive simplicity but as soon as the Roman
nners were corrupted, it became extremely common
even the women were often attacked with it,
some [illegible] Seneca Horace &c.

+ Dr Darwin says that gout except when it attacks the liver or stomach is always a secondary disease.

to those causes which produce a disordered state of the di-
gestive organs, it can be cured, only by those remedies,
which correct disorder in these organs, it alternates & is asso-
ciated, with diseases which most undoubtedly are of pas-
sive origin, yet it always succeeds & accompanied with
an acrid state of these organs. These facts are suffi-
cient to show its active origin, the sudden manner
in which it attacks a child, & the rapidity with which it
runs its course can only be accounted for by
means of irritation.

Causes of the convulsions may be many, as to produce
the irritation system worms, humors & palsies, or
from an application of strong stimulants.* several
cases of these are related by Mr Hamilton. General and
as particularly in children arise from this cause & in
fact indeed it has been said, that convulsions are not
to be considered so much a disease themselves, as the
indication of disease in the bowels, or other parts.***
Hildanus mentions violent convulsions produced
by a tooth sticking in the coats of the stomach & we know

|| Such as Hypochondriasis, Hysteria &c. Musgrave relates numerous cases of these terminated by the development of Gout. Dr Fenian mentions a case when it was associated with Hysteria.

§ This so uniformly occurs that Messrs Chaubert & Halle' the intelligent authors of the Dictionaire des Sciences Medicale have adopted it as the best diagnostic mark of Gout.

++ Abernethy.

+++ Med. Ob. et Inq. vol iij page 292

it worms very often produce them.
That chorea St Viti, is occasioned by disorder of the alimentary canal, is almost universally admitted.
Even tetanus is sometimes produced by this cause:
Tympanitis is seen produced by scybala, & even a collection of them stones in the rectum.
And there is one variety of tetanus the risus sardonicus which is most undoubtedly caused by noxious matters in the alimentary canal. —

The decline of pain seems in cases of spinal irritation over the respiratory system. The inflammatory state of the cord in the lumbar region does not seem to have attracted much attention until very lately. Bouillaud has mentioned a violent congestion, and produced in a bullock which had been castrated, he also recorded by Cruveilhier in which the same effects arised from castration & nutmeg. In both these cases the congestion caused immediately upon the exercise of the instincts. A case of tetanus caused by worms in the alimentary canal is related by Morgagni & the

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refers to a paper in Lancet in which one case of this is recorded which was most unequivocally marked by the same cause. It appears from that paper, that all who vomited the worms recovered, while those who did not died. All the common means of treatment ~~failed~~ in pneumonia failed in this instance alone were successful, while the exhibition of worms from the primæ viæ immediately removed the disease.

Within a few years however it has been proved that even pulmonary consumption itself may be produced by the lungs sympathising with disorders of the digestive organs. Mr. Abernethy has published a very interesting case of this nature. He has also examined the bodies of several patients who apparently died of phthisis combined with diseases of the digestive organs & he asserts that in all these cases, both the history & dissection tended to prove that the chylopoietic viscera were the seat of the greatest & most established disease, & that the pulmonary affection was a secondary disorder. Dr Wilson Philip has also published a very interesting

Tasper

Credit of first noticing this hues of consumption is believed due to Dr Chapman, who has contributed
much to our knowledge of the pathology of diseases.

...on this species of consumption in the Medico Chirurgical Transactions."

Asthma is sometimes produced in the very morbid state of the stomach with the intestinal viscera. Dr Hutchison mentions a case of this kind. Dr Cullen states that frequently asthma frequently seems from faults in digestion. Dr Cullen also in his excellent treatise on this disease, remarks, that convulsive asthma may be caused by irritation in some one of the abdominal viscera, but has chiefly in the stomach. & the great relief that is sometimes obtained from vomiting or purging would seem to prove the correctness of this observation.

In the section, I shall be only disposed to mention a Diarrhœa. This disease was originally considered to be a local affection of the mucous organs. Dissections however generally showed these organs to be healthy tho' diseased, & sometimes not at all affected. This induced pathologists to look elsewhere for the primary seat of the disease. Dr. Heade having always found in his dissections of persons who had died of this disease,

the contents.

— "that it is only by conformity to these rules

[illegible] tomatous tumors in the liver, or cancer, it is necessary
[illegible] to examine whether such a condition
[illegible] is the appearance in the liver are by no means a constant
[illegible] consequently the correctness of his theory of
[illegible] disease. The merit of having
[illegible] suggesting a theory which although imperfect & hypo-
[illegible] thetical retains merit to a rational & reasonable view of
[illegible] the disease than any other that had been previously
[illegible] declared & although due to Stone. Here I to give
[illegible] theory consists in explaining the nature & symptoms of
[illegible] the formidable disease & consists in say that it arises from
[illegible] a defect of the animal or assimilative process by which
[illegible] the aliment is converted into the nature of our bodies.
[illegible] Allen has adopted a similar opinion respecting the
[illegible] nature of diabetes, Dr Rollo subsequently took it up
[illegible] & endeavoured to reduce it to a more definite form. In
[illegible] doing so he has confined the fact of its originating in the
[illegible] abdominal viscera but his theory is so intimately con-
[illegible] nected with the doctrines of the humoral pathologists,
[illegible] that its truth can be established, I am not to consider
it

+ It is not improbable says Mr Thurnetry that disorders of the digestive organs by causing the frequent secretion of unnatural urine, may lead to irritation & subsequent disease of the kidneys.

+ Dr Johnson

to be a disease originating in disorder of the digestive organs, & that the kidneys are affected by morbid sym-pathizing with these organs. That this is the case ~~as~~ ~~in the~~ seems probable, from the intimate sympathy which we know exists between these parts, from the disease in these organs preceding the urinary characteristics of the disease, a disorder of these organs materially different from that which is symptomatic of a primary affection of the kidneys, urina succenturiata, the disease; dissections having shown no morbid conditions of the kidneys but what may be referred to a continuance of increased action in them.

The intimate sympathy between the diges-tive organs & the urinary system, has long been observed & acknowledged; but its effects have by no means been sufficiently attended to by practioners. In a most extensive class of diseases, says a late writer, whose treatment has been a theme very puzzling, the stomach, in company with the liver & intestines, sympathizes to an extent that is little imagined. I mean the variety of cutan-

neous

rous & eruptive complaints. From the mildest to the most inveterate of these, there is scarcely one which is not more or less connected with derangements of the above mentioned organs & consequently under the control or influence of remedies directed to them. Indeed this connection or sympathy has not escaped even unlettered observation, since rashes & pustules on the skin, are, with great truth, every day ascribed to peculiar kinds of food, & drink disagreeing with the stomach. Pustules about the lips almost invariably depend on irregularities in digestion, & the nettle rash is often ~~brought~~ ~~on~~ produced by indigestible food, indeed in almost every case it may be traced to the presence of some offensive matter taken into the stomach. Dr Bateman says that modifications of the febrile nettle rash are produced by certain articles of food, which in certain constitutions, are offensive to the stomach, & that the operation of these substances is sometimes instantaneous. Galen observes that a general itching of the skin frequently arises from causes within the body, since those are particularly liable to it, who live on food of a bad quality,

who labour under indigestion from overcharging the stomach &c. Eczemas may arise from the sympathy with the digestive organs. That eczemas is intimately connected with the state of the digestive organs, says Dr Wilson, is clearly demonstrated, by the well known fact of its appearing in various degrees on the skin, in consequence of certain kinds of food, as shell fish, for instance. Fruit-kernels as well as other articles, have been taken into the stomach & this not only in so short a space of time after, to admit of the chyle impregnated by them to be taken into the circulation, but while they as yet remained in the stomach; & of the inflammation disappearing, as soon as these contents were thrown off.

But I should far exceed my limits were I to attempt to point out the various cutaneous affections, & the extent of the influence exercised by the digestive organs in each of them. Some very interesting remarks on this subject are to be found interspersed through the works of Bateman & Willan on cutaneous diseases, & the general

part

+ See Med. Facts & obs. vol v

[illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] corroborated by the experience
[illegible] Heberden they who by correcting the state of the digestive
[illegible] have been very successful in removing the more
[illegible]ident, but consequent disease of the skin. Nor can
[illegible] have escaped the observation of every the most superficial
[illegible] that many of these complaints are preceded
[illegible] disorder of the digestive organs that great ~~irritation~~
[illegible]tic uneasiness is felt on the accession of these erup-
[illegible] which is immediately relieved on its reach heat-
[illegible]; & that several urticaria particularly, may be
[illegible]ctly traced to certain articles taken into the stomach,
[illegible] as shell fish & particularly muscles. Dr Winter-
[illegible]tton is subject to this affection after eating sweet al-
[illegible]monds, & what is somewhat remarkable, he ~~[illegible]~~
[illegible] then he observes when blanched with inhumility.
Dr Heberden had a patient in whom valerian produced
[illegible].

The action of the circulatory system,
[illegible] frequently disordered from sympathy with the diseas-
[illegible] organs. That palpitations & feeble intermitting ac-
[illegible]ions take place from sympathy with the stomach is

[illegible]mon

Abernethy

moved in their ceasing when the state of this organ becomes changed. The palpitations which take place after eating, even when the heart is irritable, further evince the sympathy which exists between these organs. So violent are sometimes the palpitations which are produced by sympathy with disorder of the stomach, that they have been sometimes supposed to denote the existence of aneurism.

Sympathy with the digestive organs will also, no doubt, in the circulatory system, those phenomena which constitute fever. This indeed appears to me, to be the cause of all those fevers which have been denominated idiopathic. The term idiopathic, as applied to fevers is an exceedingly incorrect one, all fevers being symptomatic, that is produced by some local inflammation affecting the blood vessels in particular.

This is universally admitted as respects fevers arising from wounds & other injuries; it must also be admitted of those caused by the introduction of virus into the system, & by the action of poisons, as arsenic, & Opium &c, & by attentively tracing the phenomena of idiopathic

fevers we shall find it true to separate them.

The cause of these fevers arises either from exhalations from the surface of the earth, or emanations from diseased animal bodies. That these exhalations enter the system by the mouth, & first act upon the stomach, & that the other parts of the system are affected by sympathy with this organ, we have as strong evidence as the nature of the case will admit. That this is the fact is inferred from what is generally observed among persons who are exposed to the influence of concentrated marsh exhalations, or the vitiated air of sick apartments. The atmosphere of swamps, in which the causes of fever & agues in excess rarely fail to produce, in a short season, disagreeable sensations in the stomach, nauseous taste in the mouth accompanied with a desire to spit out something that is offensive. This sensation is so clear & unequivocal in some persons that, without knowing, they could instantly tell when they entered the circle of noxious swamp air, or came within the sphere of an infected sick apartment. The sensations which are

Different persons have described the sensation differently. Some have felt a harsh taste in the mouth, as the vitriol was dissolving in it, but which no washing or gargling could remove. others have compared the foul impression to that of an earthy exhalation from a newly opened grave, the sensation extending down to the stomach, sometimes exciting instantaneous sickness & shivering.

is always disagreeable, we often meet with a case from a nauseous unpleasant pepper acting on the fauces. Stomach: The signs of the local action are often visible in the ~~mucous~~ mucous membrane which lines the fauces the sensation is felt strongly at the upper surface of the stomach: In such cases the effect is removed, & the progress of the disease arrested by the operation of an emetic or a purgative, eliminating the cause from its first lodgement. That the stomach is deeply implicated in these fevers, is confirmed by the experience of every one. This is so much the case that the different appearances of the tongue ~~in fevers~~ (which we know is the most infallible criterion of the state of the stomach) is selected by Dr Fordyce to ascertain the in[illegible] state of the ~~stomach~~ disease; its nature, & the proper mode of treating it, better than the pulse itself, & Dr Percival who has written with such ability on this fever adds, in truth the information afforded by the tongue, to an experienced practitioner, is at once so various & accurate, as to claim his minutest attention

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influence. No part of the system however, can be very considerably disordered without occasioning a correspondent derangement of the whole constitution, the digestive organs being disordered by the action of these causes, the other parts of the system become involved by sympathy with them ~~organs~~, & the phanomena which constitute fever are thus produced.

From these remarks it will be perceived, that I consider fever as a disease of the nervous system rather than of the blood vessels particularly; caused by an impression made upon some part, & affecting the whole system by the universal sympathy, which exists between its parts, causing each greater or less derangement according to circumstances. These views of fever might be further supported by a variety of considerations, but my limits will not permit my entering into further details. So much however has been already written on fevers, while our progress to a correct knowledge of them has been so very slow, that even the few remarks I have made are not offered without the greatest diffidence.

The

Dr Robinson has on three cases of paralysis induced by ~~cold~~ sudden cold applied to the surface of the body.

This concludes all the remarks, my limits will permit me to make respecting diseases of other parts produced by sympathy with disorder of the digestive organs. Many other diseases might have been ~~added~~ mentioned & perhaps other matter added, but enough remarks have been done, to show the vast importance of the subject, & able pens I design its further illucidation.

To finish the plan of this essay, some remarks are yet to be made on diseases produced by sympathy from human inhabitants made upon the skin & brain which I shall endeavour to compress in as few words as possible. The most important organs of the body, particularly, the lungs, alimentary canal, & liver sympathise with the skin. Cold applied to the feet will produce inflammation of the pleura, of the lungs, of the stomach &c, & a very common cause of bowel complaints is cold applied to the surface. Remaining disorder of the digestive organs it may occasionally act as the primary cause of all those diseases which have been ascribed to disorder of these organs.

induced
of the body

~~A very light wound of the Skin ~~ ~~the~~ ~~over the Tumor,~~
~~will sometimes produce tetanus~~

In immediate connection with the subject some remarks should now be made on what have been called diseases of inhalation & on Tumefaction & other diseases of the lungs but my limits have been already too far extended to permit me entering upon such discussions.

A very slight wound of the skin every one knows, will sometimes produce tetanus.

The effects on the system produced by primary affections of the brain has attracted so largely the attention of medical men, that I shall omit saying any thing on the subject.

These remarks conclude the investigation I proposed making. It has been my wish (on a subject that has been too little attended to) to bring together facts which have hitherto been scattered over a wide surface, & to strengthen the conclusions they have led me too, by the opinions of the best writers. How I have succeeded in the short space of time I have been able to devote to the undertaking others must decide, but it is not without the greatest diffidence as to the merits of the essay, that I submit it to the candour of the medical faculty.